(c) Periodic Open House meetings are organized by the Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs (EPCES) for redressal of grievances of developers of SEZs.

Connectivity among BIMSTEC countries for Trade with Bhutan

2587. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to improve the connectivity among the BIMSTEC countries infrastructure is required to be created to facilitate trade with land locked Bhutan; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take to improve the connectivity with Bhutan and by when connectivity is likely to be created?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To improve the road connectivity with Bhutan, the Phuentsholing-Thimpu Highway is being doublelaned in Bhutan with the assistance provided by the Government of India in the 9th Five Year Plan of Bhutan. Also, RITES Ltd. is conducting a feasibility study on the establishment of five rail links (mentioned below) on India-Bhutan border as below:

1. Hasimara (West Bengal)-Phuentsholing (Bhutan)-18km
2. Darranga (Assam)-Samdrup Jhonkar (Bhutan)-60 km
3. Kokrajhar (Assam)-Gelephu (Bhutan)-70 km
4. Banarhat (West Bengal)-Samtse (Bhutan)-16 km
5. Pathsala (Assam)-Nganglam (Bhutan)-40 km

Special funds under IBEFT

2588. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:
SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether special fund was created under the head "India Brand Equity foundation Trust (IBEFT) with one time grant of Rs. 50 crore;